

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a
Declaratory Ruling for the Location,
Construction and Operation of a 3.2 MW
Wind Renewable Generating Project on
New Haven Road in Prospect, Connecticut

Docket/Petition No. 980

February 16, 2011

PRE-HEARING TESTIMONY OF THOMAS SATKUNAS

Q 1. Please state your name and address.

A 1. My name is Thomas Satkunas. I live at 232 New Have Road, Prospect, Connecticut.

Q 2. Why have you joined Petition No. 980 as a Party?

A 2. My residence and two other residential properties owned by me are immediate neighbors of the proposed site of the two wind turbines in Prospect at 178 New Haven Road. I am concerned that any activity upon the proposed site for the wind turbines will impact my property. The home that my wife and I live in is 139 meters from the Applicant Property property line. The othe two residences that we own are 93.7 meters from the property and 456 meters from the property.

Q 3. What are your particular concerns about the proposed wind turbines?

A 3. I think that these are the first large wind turbines proposed in the State of Connecticut. From my research and reading, I am concerned that if facilities such as these are constructed too close to a residence it can have the following impacts:

- a. Inappropriate scale can diminish values of adjacent properties
- b. The sound caused by the operation of the turbines can in the least be very annoying and possibly have significant negative health consequences
- c. I have read of shadow flicker and hope in the process of these hearings to learn what the impacts on my family and my property will be. The applicants prefiled testimony and exhibits place my property at the "bull's eye" of the impact area.
- d. Ice throw and other public safety concerns may also have an impact on my property.
- e. Construction and operation vibration may impact on well water supply at our properties.

Q 4. Do you know what a desired or safe setback zone would be for wind turbines such as are proposed on the site?

A 4. The applicants experts have stated that certain of the impacts abate significantly at about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. To me it looks like that might be a reasonable number, but with this being the first of its kind decision we are relying on the Siting Council to carefully evaluate these issues.

Q 5. What other concerns do you have about setbacks?

A 5. My home and all the other homes in Prospect in the property around these properties are governed by setback regulations that are a part of zoning. Setbacks are designed to protect values and individuals from activities on other parcels and yet this proposal wants to set its own set back areas without any neutral unbiased organization deciding what the distance should be. That is not right.

Q 6. What are your other concerns about the use of the land for wind mills ?

A 6. I've lived here all my life and have bought up the residential homes that I have in the neighborhood. I did this based upon the reliance that the proposed site was and is zoned for residential use. What is proposed is a shocking breach of the committed land use. When we think of a windmill on a farm we think of a 35 foot derrick with a fan which is used to draw up water or drive a land based machine. This is a radical difference from a huge turbine operating more than 492 feet up in the air.

Q 7. Are there other aspects of the application which concern you?

A 7. Yes, I am concerned that from what has been filed so far- we can not tell anything about some very important impacts of the proposed turbines, such as what are the specifications of the facility, the tower, the footings, the connecting infrastructure, the safety lighting, the FAA strobes and beams, the temporary construction roads, the earth moving necessary for siting and for supporting the massive cranes which will be needed to place these turbines in place, and the like.
I am also concerned about the overburdening, destruction and repair of Kluge Road.

Q 8. Why are these details important?

A 8. They are important because they are necessary to judge the real impacts on the wetlands, storm water management, light pollution, and public safety. This request for declaratory ruling which would trump all local zoning would give the applicant carte blanche to change my neighborhood and home greatly, for the worse and forever.

Q 9. What do you think will be the most serious impact?

- A9. The safety and health of my family is at risk from this large facility which has no place in a residential neighborhood and that is my greatest concern. We are relying on the Siting Council to balance the interests of the neighbors, the State, and the developers.

Respectfully Submitted,

THOMAS SARKUNAS

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Certification

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing has been sent via first class mail, postage pre-paid, on this 16th day of February, 2011 to the following:

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